

STAT

[redacted]
The National Security Archive
Suite 500
1755 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

29 OCT 1987

Reference: [redacted]

STAT

Dear [redacted]

STAT

This acknowledges receipt of your 22 September 1987 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request on behalf of the National Security Archive. Specifically, you have requested "access to a copy of the current list/index of [our] 'previously processed' records" which was referred to in our Handbook of Information and Records Management.

We do not regard the index you have requested as a "record" within the purview of the FOIA (see 32 CFR 1500.3(g)(1)). It is, therefore, not a record to be produced in response to an FOIA request.

As a practical matter, however, even if actual access to the index were possible, it would not prove a very convenient or effective means of achieving your goal. The entries are not grouped by subjects; frequently, the entries are not as descriptive as a researcher would hope; and the problems those limitations create are heavily compounded by the very large volume of index entries overall. Basically, the index was not designed to facilitate broad, unfocused research of the kind you have described.

Moreover, to the extent that the index may reflect indexing practices and format unique to the CIA, and thus revealing of intelligence methods, the index in its entirety would be exempt from public access pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3), based upon 50 U.S.C. 403(d)(3).

In the alternative, we are prepared to make available to you copies of previously released documents, on topics you specify, for the standard copying cost of 10¢ per page.

Thank you for your interest in the CIA.

Sincerely,

Lee S. Strickland
Lee S. Strickland
Information and Privacy Coordinator